



Environmental Tidbits

Environmental Tidbits is brought to you courtesy of the Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership (MBP3). If you would like to be added to the email distribution list, contact Jeff Spencer at spencerj3@michigan.gov.

Informational Requests – MI P2 Partners

1. The MBP3 partnership has been very helpful in the past with guidance for recycling markets. Here at Consumers Energy we have a rubber goods waste stream that includes mats, sleeves, gloves and other goods that we would like to find a recycling market for. Although these items are no longer useful for electrical protection. We hope that they may find their way into landscaping, road or rubberized roadbed materials or other productive uses. Are you aware of any companies that would be interested in this type of material? We currently have several thousand pounds of these Rubber materials. Many are EDPM rubber and are in several colors including orange, yellow, blue, and red.

Contact: Tina Chavez, Consumers Energy
517.788.0627

2. Our company is looking at a process that would generate a weak sulfuric acid stream (29%). We are wondering if there are any companies that could use this weak sulfuric acid stream in their process for neutralization or some other use. We would generate about 16 million pounds of this weak sulfuric acid a year. If anyone has any interest in this material or has any other ideas about where we might find a market, please contact Bruce Katje.

Contact: Bruce Katje, ESCO Company, LLC
231.727.6459

If you have information or comments regarding "Informational Requests", please send them to Jeff Spencer, MBP3 Coordinator, at spencerj3@michigan.gov (unless otherwise indicated).

Environmental Awareness

Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program (RETAP)

<http://www.michigan.gov/degetap>

58 Assessments, \$2.5 Million in Savings - RETAP provides free, confidential, onsite pollution prevention and energy efficiency assessments to businesses (with 500 or fewer employees in Michigan) and institutions of any size. A written report containing specific recommendations to save money, reduce energy usage, conserve water, and eliminate waste generation is provided to the business within 60 days of the assessment. Each report includes resource and cost savings estimates of the major recommendations identified during the assessment.

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For the first six months of calendar year 2008, RETAP completed 58 assessments at a broad range of manufacturing facilities and other businesses (such as greenhouses, golf resorts, and senior housing). The total estimated annual reductions in energy and water usage, waste disposal, and facility operating expenses of the significant recommendations from these 58 assessments are as follows:

<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Amounts</u>
Electricity Usage:	14.1 million kWh
Natural Gas Usage:	0.4 million CCF
Water Usage:	12.5 million gallons
Waste Disposal:	10.5 million pounds
Operating Costs:	2.5 million dollars

To date, RETAP has conducted over 1300 assessments, with the capacity to assess 125 facilities per year. For each assessment, the RETAP assembles a team of retired engineers appropriate for the operations of the facility to be assessed. Currently, 53 retired engineers participate in the RETAP, each having 30-40 years of professional experience.

For additional information or to request a RETAP assessment, please contact David Herb, DEQ - Environmental Science and Services Division, at 517-241-8176 or by E-mail at herbd@michigan.gov

Hearing on "Science under Siege" At U.S. EPA

<http://enewsusa.blogspot.com/search?q=IRIS>

American River's 21st Century Approach to Flood Protection

<http://www.americanrivers.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=11917>

New EPA Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/9BB6384B50DF579D852574CC00622CFE>

Endangered Natural Wonders worth Seeing

<http://www.cbc.ca/consumer/story/2008/09/17/f-forbes-wonders.html>

State of the World's Birds Shows Decline in Common Birds

<http://web1.audubon.org/news/pressRelease.php>

DOE Announces The Launch Of Science.gov 5.0

<http://www.science.gov/>

Michigan Green Chemistry Strategy Report

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3585_49005---,00.html

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Energy & Climate Change

Chicago Announces Climate Action Plan

<http://www.chicagoclimateaction.org/>

Governor Praises Passage of Energy Legislation

http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-23442_21974-200347--,00.html

National Report on Systematic Observations for Climate For 2008

<http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/UNFCCC-reporting-GCOS-Final.pdf>

Old Growth Forests Should Count As Carbon Sinks

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ncs/newsarch/2008/Sep08/oldgrowthcarbon.html>

New Energy Legislation Enacted in Michigan

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2007-2008/billenrolled/Senate/pdf/2007-SNB-0213.pdf>

Recycling and Resource Conservation

New Regulations Proposed For Hazardous Waste Shipments between Countries

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/international/oecd-slab-rule.htm>

A Greener Oil Change

<http://www.ucsusa.org/publications/greentips/>

National Recycling Coalition Launches New Climate Change Educational Resources

<http://www.nrc-recycle.org/globalclimatechange.aspx>

Using Recycled Shipping Containers as Building Blocks for Green Construction

<http://www.greenerbuildings.com/news/2008/09/18/recycled-shipping-container-construction>

Water Quality & Conservation

House Approves Great Lakes Compact

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h6577ih.txt.pdf

Canadian Mayors Call For Great Lakes Commitments

<http://www.glsccities.org/>

Minnesota won't wait to vote on ballast-dumping ban

<http://www.startribune.com/local/29474934.html?elr=KArksi8cyaiUjc7YUiD3aPc: Yyc:aUU>

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Strategy to Prevent & Reduce Marine Debris

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=12486>

5th Annual World Water Monitoring Day

<http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.com/>

Training/Workshop/Conference Opportunities

Biofuels and Sustainability

<http://www.istc.illinois.edu/BiofuelsConference/>

2008 NAHMMA Conference - Burlington, VT

<http://www.nahmma.org/displayconvention.cfm?conventionnbr=5571>

27th Annual International Submerged Lands Management Conference

<http://www.submergedlands2008.com/>

Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission, Oct. 6-7 in Quebec City

<http://www.glc.org/meeting/>

12th Annual Sustainable Business Conference of Michigan

November 13th, 2008 - Fetzer Center - Kalamazoo

<http://www.SouthwestMichiganSustainableBusinessForum.org/>

Save the Date and Call for Presenters: Fourth Annual MiCorps Conference

October 20-21, 2008 - Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center - Higgins Lake, Michigan

<http://www.micorps.net/conference>

Save the Date - Fall Air & Waste Conference

<http://www.emawma.org/>

Feedback

If you have not done so, please take a few moments to complete this short evaluation, thanks.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9IkHXUF9iifL6NjXBRHNag_3d_3d

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